

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

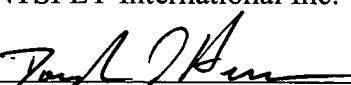
Claims 1-3 are pending in this application. The Examiner has noted that a priority document has not been filed in this case as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b). In response, the Applicants note that the priority document will be filed in due course.

The claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 in view of the patent to Wong '695. The Applicants hereby request that the Examiner reconsider this rejection in view of the fact that the Wong '695 reference is directed toward a "step-back" kind of instrument. See, for example, the first line of the abstract and column 17, lines 32-33 of the specification. The Examiner's attention is also drawn to paragraph 4 of the present application which states that the prior art shows a "Step back" method over which the present invention is a patentable improvement.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment to the specification, and to issue a Formal Notice of Allowance for claims 1-3.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment